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Appl. No. 10/790,394
Response to Office Action mailed August 8, 2007

Atty Dkt. No. 114951-006

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A lanyard, comprising:

a load-supporting outer sheath;

a heat shrunk substantially inelastic elongation member extending along an inside of the outer sheath; and

first and second hardware attachment portions at opposite ends of the load-supporting outer sheath;

wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunk substantially inelastic elongation member are secured together at a plurality of locations along substantially an entire length of the elongation member.

~~first and second spaced apart connection locations in which the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath;~~

~~wherein, the elongation member has an un-stretched heat shrunk length between the first and second connection locations substantially shorter than a length of the load-supporting outer sheath between the first and second connection locations;~~

~~wherein the heat shrunk elongation member has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunk and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunk elongation member in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one piece webbing; and~~

~~wherein the heat shrunk elongation member is elongatable and substantially inelastic in the second state.~~

Claim 2 (original): The lanyard of claim 1, further comprising a binder yarn and wherein the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by the binder yarn.

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Claim 3 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the elongation member has elongation yarns and is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by the elongation yarns and yarns of the load-supporting outer sheath being interlaced together.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 3, further comprising a binder yarn interlaced with the elongation yarns and the yarns of the load-supporting outer sheath.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by stitching.

Claim 6 (original): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein at least one of the elongation member and the load-supporting outer sheath is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, braided materials, knitted materials, non-woven materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein a portion of the lanyard has a portion of the elongation member extending to an exterior surface of the load-supporting outer sheath.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A lanyard, comprising:
a tubular-shaped webbing;
heat-shrunk elongation yarns inside of the tubular-shaped webbing, the heat-shrunk elongation yarns being elongatable and substantially inelastic; and
first and second a plurality of spaced apart binder portions locations in which the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing along substantially an entire length of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns; and
~~an expansion portion between the first and second binder portions in which the heat~~

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~~shrunk~~ wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are extensible relative to the tubular-shaped webbing ~~and when~~ the tubular-shaped webbing is in a gathered position;

wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunk and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the tubular-shaped webbing and the heat-shrunk elongation yarns in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one-piece webbing.

Claim 9 (original): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising a binder yarn and wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by the binder yarn.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and yarns of the tubular-shaped webbing being interlaced together.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 10, further comprising a binder yarn interlaced with the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and the yarns of the tubular-shaped webbing.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing by stitching.

Claim 13 (original): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein at least one of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns and the tubular-shaped webbing is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, braided materials, knitted materials, non-woven materials, and combinations thereof.

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Claim 14 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising another binder portion in which the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing with a different structure than the first and second binder portions.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The lanyard of claim 8, further comprising a hardware attachment portion having a portion of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns extending to an outside of the tubular-shaped webbing.

Claims 16-23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein relative lengths of the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunken elongation member ~~in the first state~~ are adjusted by heat treatment ~~of the one-piece webbing~~.

Claim 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (previously presented): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein relative lengths of the tubular-shaped webbing and the heat-shrunk elongation yarns in the first state are adjusted by heat treatment of the one-piece webbing.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the heat-shrunken elongation member is free from being secured to the load-supporting outer sheath between the ~~first and second connection~~ plurality of locations.

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Claim 28 (currently amended): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein ~~the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are secured to the tubular-shaped webbing at spaced apart connection locations~~ and the heat-shrunk elongation yarns are free from being secured to the tubular-shaped webbing between the ~~connection~~ binder locations.

Claim 29 (new): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the heat shrunk elongation member has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunk and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunk elongation member in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one-piece webbing.

Claim 30 (new): The lanyard of claim 1, wherein the plurality of locations are equally spaced apart along the length of the elongation member.

Claim 31 (new): The lanyard of claim 8, wherein the plurality of spaced apart binder locations are equally spaced apart along the length of the heat-shrunk elongation yarns.

Claim 32 (new): A webbing, comprising:
a load-supporting outer sheath; and
a heat shrunk substantially inelastic elongation member extending along an inside of the outer sheath;

wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunk substantially inelastic elongation member are secured together at a plurality of locations along substantially an entire length of the elongation member.

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Claim 33 (new): The webbing of claim 32, wherein the heat shrunken elongation member has a first state prior to heat shrinking of being not heat shrunken and a second state after heat shrinking, and wherein the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunk elongation member in the first state are formed substantially simultaneously together as a one-piece webbing.

Claim 34 (new): The webbing of claim 32, wherein relative lengths of the load-supporting outer sheath and the heat shrunken elongation member are adjusted by heat treatment of the elongation member.

Claim 35 (new): The webbing of claim 32, further comprising a binder yarn and wherein the elongation member is secured to the load-supporting outer sheath by the binder yarn.

Claim 36 (new): The webbing of claim 32, wherein at least one of the elongation member and the load-supporting outer sheath is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, braided materials, knitted materials, non-woven materials, and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (new): The webbing of claim 32, wherein the plurality of locations are equally spaced apart along the length of the elongation member.